

Application No. 10/723,651
Amendment dated December 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of 10/01/04
Attorney Docket No. 03-12769

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (canceled)

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (currently amended): The A face mask retaining system of Claim 9,

wherein said harness, comprises:

a face mask;

a hood a plurality of flanges configured as a head cover;

a mounting band integral with to extend around said hood; and

a plurality of orifices within each of said plurality of flanges configured
to couple to said face mask and form a seal between said hood and said
face mask;

a head harness configured to hold said face mask against the face
of a user; and

coupling structure of said mount band, and said coupling
structure of said at least one bracket. configured to couple said face mask
to said integral mounting band,

said integral mounting band comprising a plurality of spaced
apart coupling structures configured to couple to said head harness and to
said at least one bracket,

said at least one bracket being configured to couple to said
coupling structures of said integral mounting band,

said at least one bracket comprising a coupling structure
configured to couple to said head harness,

said head harness comprising a plurality of flanges configured to
extend around said hood, and a plurality of orifices within each of said

24 flanges configured to couple to said coupling structures of said integral
mounting band and said coupling structure of said at least one bracket.

2 Claim 11 (currently amended): A face mask retaining The system,
of Claim 10, wherein more than one of said comprising:

4 a face mask;

6 a hood configured as a head cover;

a mounting band integral with said hood and configured to couple
to said face mask and form a seal between said hood and said face mask;

8 a head harness configured to hold said face mask against the face
of a user; and

10 at least one bracket configured to couple said face mask to said
integral mounting band,

12 said integral mounting band comprising a plurality of spaced
apart coupling structures configured to couple to said head harness and to
said at least one bracket,

14 said at least one bracket being configured to couple to said
coupling structures of said integral mounting band,

16 said at least one bracket comprising a coupling structure
configured to couple to said head harness,

18 said head harness comprising a plurality of flanges configured to extend around said
hood, and a plurality of orifices within each of said flanges configured to couple

Application No. 10/723,651
Amendment dated December 17, 2004
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Attorney Docket No. 03-12769

20 to said coupling structures of said integral mounting band and said coupling
 structure of said at least one bracket, wherein more than one of said plurality of
22 orifices is adapted to ~~may~~ couple to each of said coupling structures.

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (currently amended): A face mask retaining The system of Claim 12,

2 wherein said harness comprisesing:

a face mask;

4 a hood configured as a head cover;

a mounting band integral with said hood and configured to couple

6 to said face mask and form a seal between said hood and said face mask;

a head harness configured to couple to said face mask and to said

8 integral mounting band; and

at least one bracket configured to couple said face mask to said

10 integral mounting band, said at least one bracket comprising a coupling

structure configured to couple to said head harness,

12 said integral mounting band comprising a plurality of spaced

apart coupling structures configured to couple to said head harness and to

14 said at least one bracket,

said head harness comprising a plurality of flanges configured to

16 extend around said hood; and a plurality of orifices within each of said

plurality of flanges configured to couple to said coupling structure of said

18 integral mounting band; and said coupling structure of said at least one

bracket.

20

Claim 21 (currently amended): A retaining system for retaining a mask over the
2 face of a user, comprising:

at least one mounting band mask;

4 a hood with a substantially tubular end adapted to receive and

6 hold said at least one mounting bandconfigured to cover a head of a user;

8 a mount band configured to couple to said mask and said hood,
and to form a seal between said hood and said mask;

10 a harness adapted to fit over said hood, said harness configured
for to coupleing to said at least one mask and said mounting band; and

12 at least one bracket adapted to engage said harness and securely
configured to couple the to said mask and to said at least one mounting
bracket band when said at least one mounting band is being held by said
hood.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The system of Claim 21, wherein said hood is
2 configured to receive and to secure said at least one mounting band is equipped
with a plurality of mounting studs.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The system of Claim 2[1]2, wherein said at least one bracket is adapted to engage at least one of said hood is coupled to itself in a loop-like configuration to receive and secure said mounting studsband.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The system of Claim 242, wherein said ~~mount~~
2 ~~band comprises a plurality of spaced apart coupling structures configured to~~

~~couple to said harness and to said at least one bracket substantially tubular end~~
~~of said hood is provided with a plurality of orifices.~~

4
Claim 25 (currently amended): The system of Claim 214, wherein ~~said at least one~~
2 ~~bracket is configured to couple to said coupling structure of said mounting studs~~
~~are adapted to extend through said orifices band.~~

2
Claim 26 (currently amended): The system of Claim 214, wherein, ~~said at least~~
~~one of said orifices is adapted to receive said at least one mounting band bracket~~
~~comprises a coupling structure configured to couple to said harness.~~

2
Claim 27 (currently amended): A The system for retaining a mask over the face of
a user, of Claim 21, wherein said harness comprises
2 at least one mounting band;
4 a hood with a substantially tubular end adapted to receive and
hold said at least one mounting band;
6 a harness adapted to fit over said hood, said harness including a
plurality of flanges ~~adapted for~~ ~~configured to extend around said hood;~~
8 and
10 a plurality of orifices within each of said plurality of flanges
configured to coupleing to said at least one coupling structure of said
mounting band; and ~~said coupling structure of said~~

12 at least one bracket adapted to engage at least one of said flanges
and securely couple the mask to said at least one mounting band when
14 said at least one mounting band is being held by said hood.

Claim 28 (currently amended): The ~~A~~ mask retaining system of claim 27,

2 comprising:

a-mask;

4 a mount band with a plurality of spaced apart coupling structures, configured to couple to said mask;

6 a hood configured to cover a head of a user, and to receive and
secure said mount band;

8 a harness configured with a plurality of flanges and orifices,
configured to couple to said mask and said mount band; and wherein said
10 at least one bracket is equipped with at least one harness configured to
couple to said mask and to said mounting stud band.

Claim 29 (currently amended): The system of **Claim 28**, wherein at least one of

2 said flanges is equipped with a plurality of said hood is coupled to itself in a
loop like configuration to receive and secure said mount band, and includes
orifices to allow said coupling structures of said mount band to pass
4 therethrough.

Application No. 10/723,651
Amendment dated December 17, 2004
Reply to Office Action of 10/01/04
Attorney Docket No. 03-12769

Claim 30 (currently amended): The system of Claim 28, wherein said at least one

~~2 bracket is configured to couple to said coupling structure of said harness~~
~~mounting band stud is adapted to engage at least one of said orifices.~~

Claims 31 (canceled)

Claims 32 (canceled)

Claims 33 (canceled)

Claims 34 (canceled)

Claims 35 (canceled)

Claims 36 (canceled)

Claim 37 (new): A system for retaining a mask over the face of a user,

~~2 comprising:~~

a first strap;

~~4 a second strap adapted to be clamped to said first strap, each of~~
~~said first and second straps being equipped with a plurality of mounting~~
~~6 studs;~~

a hood with a substantially tubular end adapted to receive and hold said first and second straps, said substantially tubular end being provided with a plurality of orifices, said mounting studs adapted to extend through said orifices;

a harness adapted to fit over said hood, said harness including at least one flange adapted to be engaged by at least one of said mounting studs; and

at least one bracket configured to engage said at least one flange and securely couple the mask to at least one of said mounting studs when said clamped first and second straps are being held by said substantially tubular end of said hood.

Claim 38 (new): The system of claim 37, wherein said at least one flange is equipped with a plurality of orifices.

Claim 39 (new): The system of claim 38, wherein said at least one bracket is equipped with at least one harness mounting stud.

Claim 40 (new): The system of claim 39, wherein said at least one harness mounting stud is adapted to engage at least one of said flange orifices.